the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what was the aim to set up tourism task force cell in the India Tourism Development Corporation during 1991; and

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Corporation on it establishment and maintenance of the Cell, till date?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) ITDC set up a Tourism Task Force Cell in May 1991 for identifying and developing new areas of tourism potential.

(b) No additional expenditure has been incurred on the salary of the employees or maintenance as the functionaries of the Tourism Task Force Cell draw their salaries from their respective Units/Divisions.

Poor Reception of T.V. Relay Centre at Idukki and Pathanamthitta Districts in Kerala

7138. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from the Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts in Kerala about poor visual results of the T.V. relay stations in these two places;

(b) the action taken in this regard; and

(c) it not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Coverage of low power TV transmitters at Idukki and Pathanamthitta is limited due to the local terrain conditions. In order to increase the coverage of the TV transmitter at Pathanamthitta, it is envisaged to increase its mast height from the existing 30 Mts. to 45 Mts. Further improvement of TV coverage in Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts would depend upon future availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

Replacement of Drilling Machines in G.S.I.

7139. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many drilling machines in the Geological Survey of India have outlived their lives;

(b) the action taken for their replacement so far;

(c) whether the Government decided to reduce the number of drilling rigs in the Geological Survey of India; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As on 1st January, 1992 101 Nos. of drills have outlived their lives.

(b) Funds have been provided within the budgetary constraints to Geological Survey of India for gradual replacement of old drills.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Automatic Exchanges in Porbandar Gujarat

7140. SHRI HARIBHAI M PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :